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the day than their original destination could win for them. We are not sure but that we like Whittier's prose better than his poetry. The rhythm of his verse, generally smooth and pure, sometimes betrays a lack of that nice artistical skill, with which no poet, even with genius of the highest order, can afford to dispense, unless at the same time he rids himself of the shackles of rhyme and measure. But the rhythm of his prose pulses upon the reader's inward ear with a singularly perfect euphony, and in gentler or more stirring moods closely adapted to the subject in hand. But, apart from the mere word-drapery, Whittier has, to all appearance, a characteristic hardly conceivable in an editor, — the slave of the hour, — that of always writing with heart and soul. We see no traces of the kind of composition drawn from the exhausted brain by the demand for "more copy," — no "got up" articles. The longest, and in our opinion the best, piece in this volume is "My Summer with Dr. Singletary," — a sketch embodying a principal personage with several side figures, manifestly drawn from life, and from some of the choicest originals of New England village society. We have so recently reviewed the author's previous publications, that we need only add concerning this, that it is fitted not merely to sustain, but to extend and enhance, his literary reputation.

17. — *The Better Land; or, The Believer's Journey and Future Home.*
By AUGUSTUS C. THOMPSON, Pastor of the Eliot Church, Roxbury,
Mass. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. 1854. 16mo. pp. 244.

THE title of this book explains its plan and purpose. Shunning such matters as divide Christians on their way to "the better land," it sets forth the sentiments and hopes which they cherish in common as to the way-marks, the recognitions, the services, the joys of the celestial city. It breathes the spirit of one who loves the way he describes, and gravitates toward the home which supplies his theme. We like the book for two characteristics which mark it so strongly, that they must elicit either emphatic praise or equally emphatic censure. One is its affluence in quotations, which break up at every hand's turn the continuity of the author's own work. This would be a fault in a treatise of a different description, but here the subject is one on which our own sentiments are best corroborated, not by the reasoning of any one uninspired man, but by the various yet consenting testimony of "the long cloud of witnesses." The other point to which we would refer is the free use made of a wide diversity of terrestrial images and illustrations. In this our author has not only followed the leading of Holy Writ, but has con-

formed to the necessity of human nature ; for the mind can conceive of the unexperienced only under forms and colors drawn from its own experience, though it may so expand and intensify these as to make them not unapt types of the infinite and the perfect.

18. — *The Electra of Sophocles, with Notes, for the Use of Colleges in the United States.* By THEODORE D. WOOLSEY, President of Yale College. New Edition, revised. Boston : James Munroe & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 159.

WE know not how extensively President Woolsey's editions of several of the Greek Tragedies have been introduced into the "Colleges of the United States," nor have we space to speak at length of their merits. But it has been our good fortune to use them in several instances, with pupils of various measures of capacity ; and we have been astonished to find how easily they have initiated the veriest novices in Greek into the intricacies of the ancient drama, rendering that an easy taskwork which in the days of our own novitiate was an "*inenarrabilis labor*." At the same time, the editor's name renders it superfluous to speak of the thorough and accurate scholarship, the fruits of which are thus made accessible to the student.